THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR): (a) and (b). No, Sir. While the Homoeopathic System of Medicine has made considerable progress, the facilities for testing of drugs have been developed only recently and instances of drugs both indigenous and imported not conforming to prescribed standards have come to notice.

The following action has been taken by the Government to improve the quality of Homoeopathy drugs being manufactured in the country:-

i) Manufacture and sale of Homoeopathy medicines have been brought under the purview of Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 in 1969.

ii) Homoeopathy Pharmacopoea Laboratory has been established to lay down standards for Homoeopathy medicines and to carry out tests. Action to further strengthen the laboratory through provision of sophisticated equipment is being taken.

iii) Homoeopathy Pharmacopoea Committee constituted by the Government has prescribed standards for 606 drugs and these have been published under Homoeopathic Parmacopoea of India. Standards for another 104 drugs are under publication.

iv) Instructions to State Drug Controller are issued by Drug Controller of India to take appropriate action under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act whenever sub-standard drugs are detected.

Singing of National Anthem and National Song

*170. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA:
SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether singing of National Anthem and National Song has been discontinued in some educational institutions in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to make singing of National Anthem and National Song in all schools compulsory; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b). Some reports have been received that the practice of collective singing of National Anthem every day in schools has been discontinued or limited to a few occasions in some schools. Apathy is likely to be the main reason for the discontinuance.

(c) and (d). The policy of the Government on the singing of National Anthem has been that there should be community singing of the National Anthem in all schools every day. Orders regarding community singing of national Anthem in all schools of the country have been issued by the Govt. of India from time to time. Most recently, in October, 1991, the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Deptt. of Education) addressed all the Chief Minister and Lieutenant Governors to issue necessary directives for singing of National Anthem in schools. However, no instructions have been

issued regarding the singing of the National Song.

[*Translation*]

Preservation of Arabic & Persian Literature

*171. SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the institutions set up for preserving Arabic and persian ancient literature and records, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government provide adequate financial assistance to these institutions;

(c) whether the Government have received any offer of financial assistance in this regard from abroad; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) The Rampur Raza Library in Uttar Pradesh and the Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library in Patna Bihar are the two institutions which are preserving Arabic and Persian literature and records and are Funded fully by the Government of India. There are other institutions either under the control of the State Governments or managed by private organisations preserving Arabic and Persian literature are records.

(b) The Rampur Raza Library and the Khuda Baksh Library are fully funded by the Government of India. Applications received from other institutions are financed adequately under the existing scheme by the National Archives of India.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

[*English*]

Meeting of Population Growth

*172. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to convene a meeting of adherents of different religions to discuss the need to control population growth and seek their co-operation to achieve the goal;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be convened; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILIY WELFARE (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR): (a) to (c). The National Family Welfare Programme is being implemented with the willing participation of different sections of our society. It is our endeavour to impart greater thrust and communication efforts. With this objective, a Draft Action Plan has been formulated in consultation with the representatives of the State Governments/ UTs Administration, which also highlights the need for evolving a national consensus in support of the programme. As the Family Welfare Programme is to be made a mass movement, cooperation of all sections of society, including religious leaders, leaders of political parties, leaders of social organisations etc. would be sought for implementation of this Action Plan.

Ex-Gratia Pension to Retired Railway Employees

*173. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:
SHRI RAM KAPSE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: